(c) and (d) Action with regard to Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) in fertilizer sector is to be taken keeping in view the declared policy of the Government of India towards the public sector which is restructuring and revive potentially viable PSUs and close down those (PSUs) which cannot be revived while fully protecting the interests of workers.

Export Promotion Council for Bulk Drugs

3653. SHRI DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a meeting held by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on 17th March, 1998, a decision had been taken to have a separate export promotion council for bulk drugs and pharmaceuticals;

(b) if so, what follow-up action is being taken by government;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh has sent any request to establish the headquarters of the said Council at Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the status of the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) A meeting to consider this matter was held in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers on March 17, 1998. Such decisions are taken by Government after appropriate inter-Ministerial consultation. Government have not decided to have a separate export promotion council for pharmaceuticals.

(c) and (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has suggested that the headquarters of the Export Promotion Council for pharmaceuticals should be located at Hyderabad. Since no decision for a separate export promotion council for pharmaceuticals has been taken, no action has been possible on the suggestion of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Procurement of Urea Strippers by RCF

3654. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 149, given in Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 2000 and state:

(a) whether decision to procure Urea Strippers by RCF has since been taken; and

(b) if so, the name of the firm with whom the order has been placed, with price and detailed terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

3655. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of physical implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project at site;

(b) what are the impediments for non-starting of project activities at site by RAPL;

(c) whether it is a fact that inordinate delay by Central Government in clearing the feedstock related issues has been hampering launching of activities at site by the co- promoter for the last five and a half years; and

(d) whether co-promoter is delaying the process by repeatedly raising issues which are not so important for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) M / s. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL), a joint venture of Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), holds a LOI for setting up a Gas Cracker Project in Assam. RAPL had taken some measures such as identification of site, part acquisition of land, conducting Environment Impact Assessment Study etc. However, in view of the objections raised by the Chabua Air Force Authorities, the project was required to be relocated. An alternate site has since been identified and Environment Impact Assessment Study has commenced. As regards issue of feedstock supply, RAPL and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have initialled the agreed clauses of Gas Supply Agreement on March 14, 2000. However, some issues such as composition of gas, flow rates etc. are currently under negotiation between RAPL and OIL. RAPL maintains that the project is expected to be commissioned within 44 months from the date of finalisation of the Gas Supply Agreement and the handing over of land, whichever is later.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

3656. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether commissioning of Assam Gas Cracker Project has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating MoU, total outlays, source of funds and schedule of construction as well as commissioning;